

Date: May 26, 2006

Dear Well Drilling Company and NJ Licensed Well Drillers:

New Timeframe for Processing Well Permit Applications

Due to the limitations in staff resources and the high volume of permit applications and well records to be processed, we have established a new system for managing all permits to drill wells. Unfortunately, and due to circumstances beyond our control, this will result in longer processing times than what applicants have experienced in the past. The Well Permitting Program (WPP) suggests you allow a minimum of two to three weeks from the date the permit is received by the WPP for processing. Emergency well requests will still receive priority processing, however this privilege will be suspended if abused. Staff will no longer be able to take the time to answer calls regarding status of permit applications. If you have any questions regarding the status of permit applications, email the Well Permitting Program directly at watersupply@dep.state.nj.us with your question(s) a minimum of three weeks from the date the application was mailed.

Please write the phrase "well permit status" as the subject of the email. You must provide:

1. Property owner name;
2. Municipality and County of the proposed well;
3. Well use type; and
4. Date the application was mailed.

Emergency permits as defined by NJAC 7:9d-1.12a are issued in circumstances to minimize or avert potential harm to human health, the environment or property. The emergency permit must clearly identify the nature of the emergency. The Department may require verification of the emergency situation prior to processing the request.

Join our email listing – Well drilling companies and licensed drillers and pump installers can send us their email address to facilitate future notifications regarding the well permitting program. To join, simply email Well Permitting at watersupply@dep.state.nj.us

Warning Advisory to Well Permit Applicants:

The well construction regulations require the owner of the property on which the well is to be drilled to ensure that all information provided on the well permit is true, accurate and complete. In cases where the licensed well driller or other authorized agent signs for the owner he or she shall assume the owner's responsibility for the information on the permit application.

Recently, a number of situations have come to our attention whereby the property owner information or the location as to where the well is to be drilled (such as lot and block) is not true or is incorrect. Employees of well drilling companies or licensed drillers who have signed the permit applications on behalf of the owners should be aware that they have taken on certain specific risks and liabilities if problems develop as a result of the installation of the well.

In addition, requests to deviate from the well construction regulations should be signed by the property owner at the time of application. When contacted by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection for more information, some property owners profess surprise that the deviation has been filed without their knowledge (and signature). Again, we strongly urge all applicants to consult with their business and legal advisors before taking on such (potentially negative) liabilities.

A copy of this notice can be found at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/> and look under "What's New."